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REMARKS

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 2, 2003. In view of the amendments and the following discussion, the Applicants believe that all claims are in allowable form.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

A. 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claim 27 stands rejected as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,565,662 issued March 24, 1998 to *Amano et al.*, (hereinafter referred to as "*Amano*"). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 27 recites limitations not taught or suggested by *Amano*. *Amano* teaches an etch chamber having a lid (upper casing 62). The lid is coupled by a detaching device 63 to the chamber. The detaching device includes an air cylinder 64 that is adapted to vertically lift the lid from the chamber. The piston is mounted to linear guides 84 that allow the elevated lid to be moved laterally from over the chamber. Once moved clear of the chamber, the lid may be rotated about shafts 68 coupled between the detaching device and the lid to access the underside of the lid. Thus, as the shafts are not part of a hinge assembly, the lid cannot be coupled to the chamber body by a hinge assembly, as recited by claim 27.

Therefore, claim 27 is patentable over *Amano*, as *Amano* does not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 27. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

B. 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 28 stands rejected as being unpatentable over *Amano* as applied to claim 27 above, and in further view of United States Patent No. 6,469,448 filed October 22, 2002 to Taguchi et al., (hereinafter referred to as "*Taguchi*"). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

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Claim 28, which depends from claim 27, recites limitations not taught or suggested by the combination of *Amano* and *Taguchi*. The patentability of claim 27 over *Amano* is discussed above. *Taguchi* teaches a PVD deposition chamber. However, modifying the processing chamber taught by *Amano* with to a target as taught by *Taguchi* fails to teach or suggest coupling the lid to the chamber body by a hinge assembly, as recited by claim 28.

Therefore, claim 28 is patentable over *Amano* in view of *Taguchi*, as the combination of fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 28. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

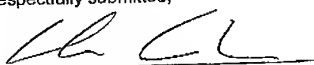
The Applicants thank the Examiner for her comments regarding the allowability of claim 4-10 and 13-26.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicant submits that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,


Keith P. TABOADA
Attorney Reg. No. 45,150
(732) 530-9404


Moser, Patterson & Sheridan, LLP
595 Shrewsbury Avenue
Suite 100
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 on February 2, 2004 and is addressed to the Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306.


Signature
KEITH TABADA
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FEB 2, 2004
Date of signature

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